

CLAIMS

1. A sealer tape and clip assembly adapted to be disposed in a recess extending along joined edges of a pair of vehicle body panels, the recess defined by at least one interior surface, comprising:

an elongated sealer tape member having an upper surface, a lower surface, and opposed side surfaces, said sealer tape member including at least one aperture extending through said upper surface and said lower surface, said at least one aperture disposed between but not extending through said opposed side surfaces of said sealer tape member; and

at least one clip body having an upper portion, a lower portion, and an intermediate portion extending between the upper portion and the lower portion, said intermediate portion disposed in said at least one aperture in said sealer tape member, the upper portion of said at least one clip body engaging said upper surface of said sealer tape member, the lower portion of said at least one clip body engaging said lower surface of said sealer tape member, said sealer tape member adapted to sealingly bond with the at least one interior surface of the recess to secure said assembly in the recess.

2. The assembly according to claim 1 wherein said sealer tape member includes a length and a width, said length of said sealer tape member being greater than said width of said sealer tape member, and said aperture has a length, said length of said aperture extending parallel to said length of said sealer tape member.

3. The assembly according to claim 1 wherein said sealer tape member includes a length and a width, said length of said sealer tape member being

greater than said width of said sealer tape member, and said aperture has a length, said length of said aperture extending perpendicular to said length of said sealer tape member.

4. The assembly according to claim 1 wherein said sealer tape member includes a length and a width, said length of said sealer tape member being greater than said width of said sealer tape member, and a pair of aperture having a length, said length of said pair of apertures extending perpendicular to said length of said sealer tape member, and wherein said clip body includes a pair of intermediate portions disposed in said pair of apertures and a pair of lower portions engaging said lower surface of said sealer tape member.

5. The assembly according to claim 1 wherein said clip body is formed of a plastic material.

6. The assembly according to claim 1 wherein said clip body is formed of a metallic material.

7. The assembly according to claim 1 wherein said sealer tape member is formed of a polymer material.

8. The assembly according to claim 1 wherein said sealer tape member is formed of a co-polymer material.

9. The assembly according to claim 1 wherein said at least one clip body includes a plurality of projections extending upwardly from the upper portion thereof.

10. The assembly according to claim 9 including a plurality of self-locating features extending outwardly from said projections.

11. The assembly according to claim 9 wherein said plurality of projections is a plurality of spaced apart pairs of prongs.

12. The assembly according to claim 9 wherein said plurality of projections is a pair of spaced prongs extending along a length of the upper portion.

13. A method for attaching a sealer tape and clip assembly in a recess extending along joined edges of a pair of vehicle body panels, the recess defined by at least one interior surface, comprising the steps of:

- a) providing an elongated sealer tape member having an upper surface, a lower surface, and opposed side surfaces, said sealer tape member including at least one aperture extending through said upper surface and said lower surface, said at least one aperture disposed between but not extending through said opposed side surfaces of said sealer tape member;
- b) providing at least one clip body having an upper portion, a lower portion, and an intermediate portion extending between the upper portion and the lower portion;
- c) inserting the intermediate portion of said at least one clip body into the at least one aperture of said sealer tape member to form said assembly, the upper portion of said at least one clip body engaging the upper surface of said sealer tape member, the lower portion of said at least one clip body engaging the lower surface of said sealer tape member;
- d) placing said assembly in the recess;
- e) subjecting said assembly and the vehicle body to a high ambient temperature, whereby said sealer tape member sealingly bonds with the at least one interior surface of the recess to secure said assembly in the recess.

14. The method according to claim 13 wherein the step a) is further defined by said sealer tape member including a length and a width, said length of said sealer tape member being greater than said width of said sealer tape member, and said aperture having a length, said length of said aperture extending parallel to said length of said sealer tape member.

15. The method according to claim 13 wherein the step a) is further defined by said sealer tape member including a length and a width, said length of said sealer tape member being greater than said width of said sealer tape member, and said aperture having a length, said length of said aperture extending perpendicular to said length of said sealer tape member.